

BOARD OF FINANCE

September 22, 2010

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Finance held at 7:00 P.M., on Wednesday, September 22, 2010.

Members Present: First Selectman Freda, Mr. Monico, Mr. Hallahan, Mr. Pieper, Ms. Vissicchio, Mr. Kohlhepp

Members Absent: Mr. Lianos

Also Present: Director of Finance Edward J. Swinkoski

The following materials were either mailed to the members prior to this meeting or distributed at this time.

1. Agenda – September 21, 2010
2. Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on August 18, 2010
3. August 31 , 2010 - Report of Budget
 - Report of Revenue
 - Special Funds
 - Board of Education Accounting
4. FY 09-10 Budget Transfers Spreadsheet
5. Financial Statement (Page 2)
6. BOE Budget

MINUTES

After a brief discussion of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on August 18, 2010, Mr. Hallahan moved to amend the minutes, seconded by Mr. Pieper.

VOTE:	Freda- Yes	Monico - Yes	Hallahan - Yes
	Pieper - Yes	Vissicchio - Yes	Kohlhepp – Abstain

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Monico said that Mrs. Feinberg was correct in that Ms. McCarty stated that the \$250,000 would stay in the contingency fund if the paramedics program was accepted. \$250,000 was moved out of the Fire Department overtime line and put into the Contingency Fund. However, Mr. Monico said that only 24 firefighters were budgeted for. There was no funding put in the budget for the additional 4 paramedics. The cost of the 4 paramedics had to be reflected on the expense side of the budget as only the cost of 24 paramedics was shown. The Town received \$156,000 from the SAFER grant.

Further discussion followed.

OTHER

Mr. Kohlhepp asked Mr. Monico if a committee is being formed concerning the Town's medical benefits. Mr. Monico said he has spoken to the First Selectman about this and a committee will be put together in November.

Mr. Kohlhepp asked if there are plans for Board of Finance members to be involved in union negotiations. Mr. Freda said that only department heads, union presidents, union representatives and attorneys are involved in labor negotiations. Mr. Freda said that there are three (3) union contracts currently in negotiations and that the unions are well aware of the Board's concerns relating to health insurance and benefits.

Mr. Monico said that it will take time to make changes but the Town is determined and is moving in that direction.

Mr. Kohlhepp was pleased with the reductions that the Board of Education made to their budget and commended them for doing an excellent job.

Further discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS

REPORT OF BUDGET, REVENUE, SPECIAL FUNDS AND BOARD OF EDUCATION ACCOUNTING AUGUST 31, 2010

Mr. Swinkoski referred to these reports stating that tax collections at the end of August were 53.4%. Mr. Swinkoski reviewed the overexpenditure report in detail. Further discussion followed. Mr. Kohlhepp made a motion to accept the reports.

Seconded by, Ms. Vissicchio.

VOTE:	Freda- Yes	Monico - Yes	Hallahan - Yes
	Pieper - Yes	Vissicchio - Yes	Kohlhepp - Yes

DEPARTMENT HEAD DISCUSSION

Mr. Monico began the discussion stating that he would like the department heads 1% salary increase reinstated. The salary increases were cut from the budget after the budget did not pass the first time. He said that the department heads worked very hard and reduced the budget by \$800,000. He thought it would be a small gesture to thank them for their dedication. The cost of the increase would have to be absorbed within their budgets. Mr. Monico said that he would like to recommend this to the Board of Selectmen since the Board of Finance does not have the authority to restore the salary increase. He then asked board members their opinion on the matter.

Mr. Freda said he was very pleased with the efforts of the department heads and the sacrifices they had to make. He said they responded extremely well to the challenges of this year's budget.

Mr. Hallahan said he had mixed feelings. He thought that the department heads did a fantastic job but there are many town residents that are still unemployed and might not agree.

Mr. Pieper felt that their hard work should be recognized as did Mr. Kohlhepp.

Ms. Vissicchio said that we should think carefully about this and take into consideration what the public thinks since times are tough.

After further discussion all board members agreed to permit Mr. Monico to draft a letter of recommendation for the reinstatement of the 1% salary increase for department heads to the Board of Selectmen.

OTHER

Mr. Monico said that he would like to reschedule the October 20th Board of Finance meeting to October 27th. Board members agreed to the date change.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Discussion followed for approximately 25 minutes with residents asking questions and making recommendations.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Kohlhepp moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25PM, seconded by Mr. Pieper.

VOTE:	Freda- Yes	Monico - Yes	Hallahan - Yes
	Pieper - Yes	Vissicchio - Yes	Kohlhepp - Yes